

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2008
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2001
IMPACT OF WTO AGREEMENT
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether China has sought India's help in joining the WTO by November, 2001;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; (
- (c) whether China is also having reservations about the adverse impact of the WTO agreement on agricultural sector in the country;
- (d) whether India has approached the countries having reservations about the adverse impact of WTO agreement on agriculture; and
- (e) if so, the response of other countries thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) & (b) : In the various bilateral meetings between our delegation and the Chinese delegation held in the context of China's accession to WTO, the Chinese side have requested for and have also acknowledged receiving our support for the early accession of China to WTO.

(c) : While Media reports have mentioned reservations about the adverse impact of WTO agreement on the agriculture sector of China, no official statement about this from the Chinese Government has come to the notice of Government.

(d) & (e) : As part of the ongoing negotiations under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, India along with many other developing countries have highlighted the fact that the anticipated benefits of liberalization in agriculture have not materialized for them because of the continuation of trade distorting subsidies by many of the developed countries and have, therefore, demanded substantial reductions in trade distorting domestic support, substantial reductions in tariffs and elimination of export subsidies by the developed countries and sufficient flexibility to the developing countries to take care of these food security and livelihood concerns. In this regard, India besides submitting detailed proposals in the areas of market access, domestic support, export competition and food security, has also co-sponsored two proposals on 'Market Access' and 'Export Credits' along with other developing countries. While the proposal on 'Market Access' was cosponsored by India along with Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Haiti, the proposal on 'Export Credit' was cosponsored along with Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Malaysia.